Serial No. 10/574,723

Atty. Doc. No. 2003P08417WOUS

## Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

## 1 - 14 (canceled)

15. (currently amended) A method for operating a metal strip mill train, comprising: determining a desired flatness of the strip via a material flow model; measuring an actual flatness of the metal strip near a discharge point of the mill train; translating the measured metal strip flatness into flatness values;

controlling a roll stand of the mill train via a bulge strip shape model that uses the desired and actual flatness values as inputs to reduce the difference between the actual flatness and the desired flatness of the metal strip.

- 16. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 15, wherein the actual flatness of the metal strip is measured at the discharge point of the mill train.
- 17. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 15, wherein the actual flatness is determined as a bulge strip shape pattern.
- 18. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the bulge-strip shape pattern is three-dimensional.
- 19. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 18, wherein a relative length of individual tracks of the metal strip is evaluated to determine the <u>strip shape bulge</u>-pattern along with a variable of the individual tracks selected from the group consisting of: wavelength, amplitude and phase offset.
- 20. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein a laser measuring device is used to determine the desired flatness of the metal strip.

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21. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 20, wherein the laser measuring device is a multi-track laser measuring device.

- 22. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 20, wherein the actual flatness of the metal strip is measured topometricallytopographically.
- 23. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 22, wherein the values for the desired flatness are translated into values for the actual flatness using the <u>strip shape bulge</u> model.
- 24. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein the flatness values are translated online in real-time.
- 25. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 24, wherein, the flatness values are translated online in real-time via an approximation function.
- 26. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 25, wherein the metal strip shape bulge-pattern based on the strip flatness is determined via the strip shape bulge-model by applying an assumed temperature distribution in the transverse direction of the metal strip.
- 27. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 26, wherein the actual flatness of the metal strip is measured by a laser measuring device.
- 28. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 27, wherein the laser measuring device is a multi-track laser measuring device.
- 29. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 27, wherein a flatness limit value is predefined at points to control the mill train.

30.-33. (canceled)